In the Claims

1   1.   [Currently Amended] An image forming device consumable monitoring
2   method comprising:
3   storing information regarding a plurality of consumables usable to form hard
4   images, wherein the stored information for an individual one of the consumables includes
5   a stored consumable identifier which identifies the respective consumable and a stored
6   party identifier utilized to identify a proper party of the respective consumable;
7   receiving information regarding a consumable to be verified including a received
8   consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified and a received party
9   identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the consumable to be
10   verified;
11   comparing the received consumable identifier with at least one of the stored
12   consumable identifiers;
13   comparing the received party identifier with at least one of the stored party
14   identifiers;
15   outputting a message responsive to the comparings to indicate use of the
16   consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party who is not authorized to use the
17   consumable; and
18   wherein the comparing the received consumable identifier comprises comparing
19   the received consumable identifier with ~~a plurality~~ at least one of the stored consumable
20   identifiers, further comprising matching the received consumable identifier with one of the
21   stored consumable identifiers, and wherein the comparing the received party identifier
22   comprises comparing after the matching.

1   2.   [Canceled].

1   3.   [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding a
2   command to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified to
3   disable at least one operation of the image forming device coupled with the consumable
4   to be verified responsive to the comparings.

1   4.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 further comprising
2   forwarding another message comprising a warning message to an image forming device
3   coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive to the comparings.

1   5.   [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising recording the received
2 consumable identifier, the received party identifier, and date and time information
3 regarding the reception of the received information.

1   6.   [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the received party
2 identifier comprises receiving a received device identifier which identifies the image
3 forming device which communicated the information and wherein the storing comprises
4 storing the stored party identifier comprising at least one stored device identifier which
5 identifies an image forming device associated with the proper party for the respective
6 consumable and wherein the comparing the received party identifier comprises
7 comparing the received device identifier with the stored device identifier.

1   7.   [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the storing the stored party
2 identifier comprises storing a plurality of stored device identifiers and the comparing the
3 received party identifier comprises comparing the received device identifier with the
4 plurality of stored device identifiers.

1   8.   [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the received party
2 identifier comprises receiving the received party identifier which directly identifies the
3 proper party of the respective consumable.

1   9.   [Previously Presented] A consumable monitoring system comprising:
2   a database configured to store information regarding a plurality of consumables
3 usable to form hard images, wherein the stored information for an individual one of the
4 consumables includes a stored consumable identifier which identifies the respective
5 consumable, and a stored party identifier utilized to identify a proper party associated
6 with the respective consumable;
7   an interface adapted to receive information regarding a consumable to be verified
8 including a received consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified
9 and a received party identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the
10 consumable to be verified;
11   processing circuitry configured to compare the received consumable identifier with
12 the stored consumable identifiers and to compare the received party identifier with the
13 stored party identifier of a respective one of the consumables corresponding to the
14 received consumable identifier;

15   wherein the processing circuitry is configured to control outputting of a

16 communication responsive to the received party identifier not matching the stored party

17 identifier of the respective consumable and wherein the communication indicates the

18 failure of the received party identifier to match the stored party identifier of the respective

19 consumable; and

20   wherein the processing circuitry is configured to compare the received

21 consumable identifier with the stored consumable identifiers before the comparison of

22 the received party identifier with the stored party identifier.

1   10. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing

2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a message to the proper

3 party associated with the respective consumable responsive to the comparisons.

1   11. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing

2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a command to disable at

3 least one operation of an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be

4 verified responsive to the comparison.

1   12. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing

2 circuitry is configured to forward the communication comprising a warning message to an

3 image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive to the

4 comparison.

1   13. [Original] The system of claim 9 further comprising a memory device, and

2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to forward the received consumable

3 identifier, the received party identifier, and date and time information regarding the

4 reception of the received consumable identifier and the received party identifier to the

5 memory device for storage.

1   14. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the interface is

2 adapted to receive the information regarding the consumable to be verified including the

3 received party identifier comprising a received device identifier which identifies the image

4 forming device which communicated the information and wherein the database is

5 configured to store the stored party identifiers comprising at least one stored device

6   identifier which identifies an image forming device associated with the proper party for
7   the respective consumable and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to compare
8   the received device identifier with the stored device identifier to compare the received
9   party identifier with the stored party identifier.

1   15.   [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the database is
2   configured to store the stored party identifier comprising a plurality of stored device
3   identifiers which identify a plurality of image forming devices associated with the proper
4   party of the respective consumable, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to
5   compare the received party identifier comprising a received device identifier with the
6   stored device identifiers.

1   16.   [Original] The system of claim 9 wherein the interface is adapted to
2   receive the information regarding the consumable to be verified including the received
3   party identifier which directly identifies the proper party of the respective consumable.

Claims 17-23 [Canceled].

1   24.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 wherein the outputting
2   comprises outputting the message to an owner of the respective consumable.

1   25.   [Canceled].

1   26.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the
2   received consumable identifier occurs before the comparing the received party identifier
3   and the outputting comprises outputting the message responsive to the received
4   consumable identifier matching at least one of the stored consumable identifiers and the
5   received party identifier failing to match a stored party identifier of the respective
6   consumable associated with the at least one stored consumable identifier.

Claims 27-29 [Canceled].

1   30.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 wherein the message
2   indicates the failure of the received party identifier to match any stored party identifier
3   associated with the consumable to be verified.

1   31.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 26 further comprising, using

2   the received consumable identifier, identifying the at least one stored party identifier to be

3   used for the comparing with the received party identifier.

1   32.   [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the communication

2   indicates use of the consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party.

1   33.   [Previously Presented] The system of claim 32 wherein the processing

2   circuitry is configured to address the communication for communication to the proper

3   party and to control outputting of another communication comprising a warning message

4   of unauthorized use to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be

5   verified.

1   34.   [Canceled].

1   35.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 further comprising

2   identifying one of the stored party identifiers as corresponding to the matched one of the

3   stored consumable identifiers, and the comparing the received party identifier comprises

4   comparing with the identified one stored party identifier.

1   36.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 35 wherein the outputting

2   comprises outputting responsive to the received party identifier not matching the

3   identified one stored party identifier.

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1   37.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 wherein the proper party is

2   entitled to use the consumable to be verified and the unauthorized party is a party

3   different than the proper party.

1   38.   [Canceled].

1   39.   [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the non-matching

2   received party identifier and the stored party identifier identify different parties.

1   40.   [Previously Presented] The system of claim 9 wherein the processing

2   circuitry is configured to communicate the communication to the proper party and

3   wherein the communication comprises the received party identifier corresponding to an

4   unauthorized party different than the proper party.

1   41.   [Previously Presented] An image forming device consumable monitoring

2   method comprising:

3   storing information regarding a plurality of consumables usable to form hard

4   images, wherein the stored information for an individual one of the consumables includes

5   a stored consumable identifier which identifies the respective consumable and a stored

6   party identifier utilized to identify a proper party of the respective consumable;

7   receiving information regarding a consumable to be verified including a received

8   consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified and a received party

9   identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the consumable to be

10   verified;

11   comparing the received consumable identifier with at least one of the stored

12   consumable identifiers;

13   comparing the received party identifier with at least one of the stored party

14   identifiers;

15   outputting a message responsive to the comparings to indicate use of the

16   consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party who is not authorized to use the

17   consumable; and

18   wherein the comparing the received consumable identifier occurs before the

19   comparing the received party identifier and the outputting comprises outputting the

20   message responsive to the received consumable identifier matching at least one of the

21   stored consumable identifiers and the received party identifier failing to match a stored

22   party identifier of the respective consumable associated with the at least one stored

23   consumable identifier.

1   42.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 41 further comprising, using

2   the received consumable identifier, identifying the at least one stored party identifier to be

3   used for the comparing with the received party identifier.